



WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY FROM TÜRKİYE

BY
MARCH 19 PLATFORM

DECEMBER 26, 2025



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GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE BUSY WITH DRUG RAIDS, MONEY LAUNDERING, BRIBERY, ILLEGAL BETTING OPERATIONS.

EVERY DAY, A NEW 'OPERATION,' YET IT REFUSES TO ANSWER FOR 23 YEARS OF TURNING THE COUNTRY INTO A CRIME SWAMP.

WE WILL NOT LET YOU HIDE THE TRUTH

CHILDREN ARE FORCED TO WORK, THE MINIMUM WAGE IS BELOW THE HUNGER LINE, FEMICIDES ARE BREAKING RECORDS, THE PRESS IS SILENCED, POLITICAL PRISONERS GROW IN NUMBER, AND JUSTICE SERVES THE GOVERNMENT



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MINIMUM WAGE BELOW HUNGER LINE

*OPPOSITION LEADER WARNS: “FIRST TIME IN THE
HISTORY OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC”*



The 2026 minimum wage in Türkiye has been set below the hunger line for the first time in the country's history, leaving millions of workers unable to meet basic food needs from the start of the year. Opposition leader Özgür Özel said the wage reflects inflation-based calculations and a bargaining process that excluded workers, as unions refused to participate over the commission's antidemocratic structure, leaving the decision to the government–employer bloc.



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THOUSANDS RELEASED UNDER NEW JUDICIAL REFORM

MORE ROOM FOR MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS?



Türkiye has begun releasing thousands of non-political prisoners under the newly approved 11th Judicial Package, expanding conditional release and probation measures. The reform excludes political and terrorism-related offenses, drawing criticism that political prisoners remain incarcerated while real criminals are freed.



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ONGOING ATTACKS ON THE PRESS

*JOURNALISTS BARIŞ TERKOĞLU AND LEVENT GÜLTEKİN
DETAINED FOR THEIR WORK THEN RELEASED*



BIANET.ORG

Journalist Barış Terkoğlu was detained after a broadcast alleging misconduct involving a prosecutor during the police's drug raid, drawing wide spread criticism. His colleague Barış Pehlivan, said government's move aimed to silence investigative journalism. Terkoğlu was later released under judicial control the same day.

Journalist Levent Gültekin was briefly detained over comments he made on his YouTube program and later released under judicial supervision, including a travel ban, amid ongoing pressure on journalists in Türkiye for their political commentary.



TURKISHMINUTE.COM



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ECTHR FAST-TRACKS KEY TÜRKİYE CASES

*EUROPE'S TOP HUMAN RIGHTS COURT STEPS IN
ON POLITICAL DETENTIONS*



BRITANNICA.COM

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has agreed to examine Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's application under a rare priority procedure, treating his pretrial detention as an urgent case amid allegations of politically motivated prosecution in Türkiye.

ECtHR has referred Osman Kavala's case to its Grand Chamber and set an expedited timeline ahead of a March 2026 hearing on Türkiye's continued defiance of a 2019 ruling ordering his release.



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ANOTHER CHILD LABORER KILLED

ZAHRA BECOMES THE 91ST CHILD LABORER TO DIE ON THE JOB THIS YEAR



DW.COM

A 17-year-old Afghan refugee girl, Zahra Hosseini, was killed while working at an industrial facility in Karaman, becoming the 91st child worker to die on the job in Türkiye this year, as child labor—especially among refugees—continues to be normalized and ignored.



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US LAWMAKER CALLS FOR İMAMOĞLU'S RELEASE

RASKIN: "AN OUTRAGE AGAINST DEMOCRACY"



US Congressman Jamie Raskin has urged the immediate release of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, calling his detention politically motivated and part of a broader crackdown in Türkiye aimed at sidelining President Erdoğan's strongest electoral rival. Raskin calls İmamoglu's detention an outrage against democracy.



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KIZILAY TENT SALES CONFIRMED

DISASTER AID SOLD FOR A PRICE



TURKISHMINUTE.COM

Official reports submitted to prosecutors confirm that the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) sold tents after the 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye instead of distributing them free of charge. Controversy deepens over alleged abuse of office as millions were left without shelter.



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CHP TARGETS İSTANBUL PROSECUTOR

*CRACKDOWN PROSECUTER ACCUSED OF
ILLICIT WEALTH*



Türkiye's main opposition CHP has filed a criminal complaint against İstanbul's chief prosecutor, Akın Gürlek, accusing him of acquiring assets far beyond his income amid an expanding judicial crackdown on the party, deepening concerns over politicized justice and the rule of law.



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SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT PANEL!

*LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
AT 12:00 PM EST. ON JANUARY 18, 2026*



March 19 Platform

SİNEM NAZLI DEMİR'İN KATILIMIYLA

TÜRKİYE'DE KADIN HAKLARI

18 Ocak 2026 Pazar

9.00-10.00 PST
12.00-13.00 EST
20.00-21.00 TSİ

Youtube Canlı Yayını

www.youtube.com/@March19Platform

SİNEM NAZLI DEMİR
Gazeteci - Yazar

Journalist and human rights advocate Sinem Nazlı Demir has worked for Cumhuriyet, ANKA News Agency, and ARTI TV. She is the founder of the Farkına Var Association, which supports women and children in underprivileged conditions. She wrote "I Know My Killer," a book on femicides in Türkiye. Currently pursuing a master's degree in Human Rights at Fulda University, Germany, Demir delivers monthly seminars on women's and children's rights across Türkiye and Germany.